

New Year's Day is in some way recognized by every people having a formal calendar, yet the hours of the last day of the old year generally pass with little variation from ordinary routine. Nevertheless, it is the completed book whose story impresses the reader for good or bad, not the cover or the frontispiece of the new one. Nearly all the words of our language applying to a course not absolutely marked out describe the path that is left behind and not that which is before. There is no counterpart to the ship's "wake" for the course which the prow is about to break, nor of the "track of the cyclone," nor of the spoor of the tiger, nor of "the trail" of numberless animals. It may be noted incidentally that laws or ordinances require automobiles to carry a number, in large figures, hanging from the back. Nobody who sees an automobile coming cares what its number is. Only when it happens to leave some record behind in its track is the knowledge of its number important. It is doubtless because the future is swarming with possibilities, whereas the past constitutes a record which cannot be changed, that most of our festivities centre about the anticipation of the new year rather than in a retrospective affection for the old. In the elder days of the world prophecy held a place of prominence among all peoples, but of history in the scientific sense there was none. This has been reversed by the severely practical modern world. History is at a premium, prophecy at a discount. Yet the almost disregarded last day of December stands for the completed record, as New Year's does for the prophecy of what is to come.

## New Year's Resolutions.

If everybody on this earth  
Made resolutions New Year's Day  
And kept them fast, a share of mirth  
From life would straight be swept away.

The fool would cease the pranks which  
make  
The wise man jeer with cynic chaff.  
The wise man with some sad mistake  
Would never move the fool to laugh.

So let us strive as best we may  
And, if perfection be not won,  
We'll let the failure go its way  
To swell the scoffer's store of fun.

## When Talleyrand Scored.

When Mme. de Stael published her celebrated novel, "Delphine," she was supposed to have painted herself in the person of the heroine, and M. Talleyrand in that of an elderly lady, who is one of the principal characters. "They tell me," said he, the first time he met her, "that we are both of us in your novel, in the disguise of women."

## PASSING OF THE OLD YEAR.

We've journeyed on together many days,  
And now behold the parting of our ways.  
With thoughts of mingled gladness and of grief,  
I see the winding way that I must tread  
To future lands.  
For thee, a lady of the realm of shadows,  
The Silent Land of years that lie  
With folded hands.

A few more sighs and a forever part—  
A few more words that wake the throbbing heart.

A farewell smile, a lingering clasp of hand,  
For thou shalt lie within the shadow-land.  
The while I have a glad new year to greet,  
The while I journey on with memory sweet,  
Old year, of thee.

Alas, not half I felt or knew I fill  
How kind and brave and true a friend dost thou!

A loved one seems when comes the darkened day  
When heart and lips all tremulous must say  
A last good-bye.

Yet, though thy friendly face no more I see,  
The memory sweet my heart has kept of thee.

## ANOTHER YEAR IS ANOTHER CHANCE.



# WHAT SHALL I DO WITH MY LIFE?

## A NEW YEAR'S EVE REVERIE.

WRITTEN BY REV. W. H. WEEKS  
CHAPLAIN CITY HOSPITAL, NEW YORK.

**I** SAT before the blazing hearth; the genial warmth of an open fire charmed me into a beautiful dreamland. Memory drew upon her abyssal resources as I sat there, coaxed into an abstraction of exquisite pleasure. Voices! I hear voices, strange voices! They speak to me: The first said, "A year ago you promised, if your life was spared to you, that you would consecrate it to God." The second asked, "Has God, to whom you made the promise, dealt with you as you have dealt with Him?" The third said, "Remove it." But the fourth asked, "That it might be spared for a while longer." I cried in agony, "Spare me, Lord."

Two others, still in their teens, passed through the room in which I sat. Full of animal life and youthful gaiety they chatted and joked and laughed; they were in a whirl of pleasure. Suddenly one of them cried, "O! O, my!" "Agnes," said her companion, "what troubles you?" but Ellen could only repeat, "O, my!" At length she said, "I promised to spend one hour with God; I must go to my room instantly. Good night, Agnes. I'll see you to-morrow." The explanation of Ellen's conduct was, her mother had been speaking to her about the beauty of a life of holiness, and she had promised her mother to spend an hour in prayer and reading the ninety-first Psalm before she retired. The chatting had almost driven it out of her mind.

Then appeared upon the scene a youth of twenty summers, of noble mien; his eye glistened with nobleness; his demeanor was pleasing; he was a picture of genuineness; his carriage was that of a

## Webster or Clay or Lincoln.

As he stood in the midst of the room he addressed an invisible being: "What shall I do with my life?" Standing on its threshold, viewing the wrecks of wasted lives as they floated by out into the ocean of eternity, he repeated the question with great solemnity: "What shall I do with my life?"

## Three Faces Instantly Appeared.

First that of an ox, then that of a lion, last an eagle. The ox made answer: "Eat, drink and be merry," but the young man shuddered at the thought of making a god of his appetite. Live an animal life? Nay! I was created for something nobler than a glutton; I have a soul to save. The lion proposed to make a god of genius. She offers a pedestal of eternal fame; your name shall be associated with scientists, philosophers and philanthropists.

## In Her Native Dignity Sat the Eagle.

She looked at the man, then at the heaven above. Turning to the man she said, "The earth is thy lodging place; the heaven overhead is thy home; the earth's choicest treasure cannot fill thee. Thou art more than animal, more than intellect, thou art qualified for companionship with deity. Prepare!" In a moment of time there passed before me

## A Panorama,

upon which was displayed all the scenes of my life from my earliest recollection. Curious and strange tracings were there. Every struggle with conscience, every striving to be

good, every lofty ideal were drawn with perfect accuracy. Failures and successes, defeats and victories passed in rapid review. Never were there such noble ambitions, such possibilities and such fatal aimlessness crowded into so small a compass. The sight alarmed me and I cried, "Is it too late?"

## Suddenly the Scene Changed.

The judgment was set amid a blaze of majesty and power and glory, beyond my most fertile imagination. Every human being stood before it, waiting to render an account of the life now closed. Notably,

## The Poor Led the Way.

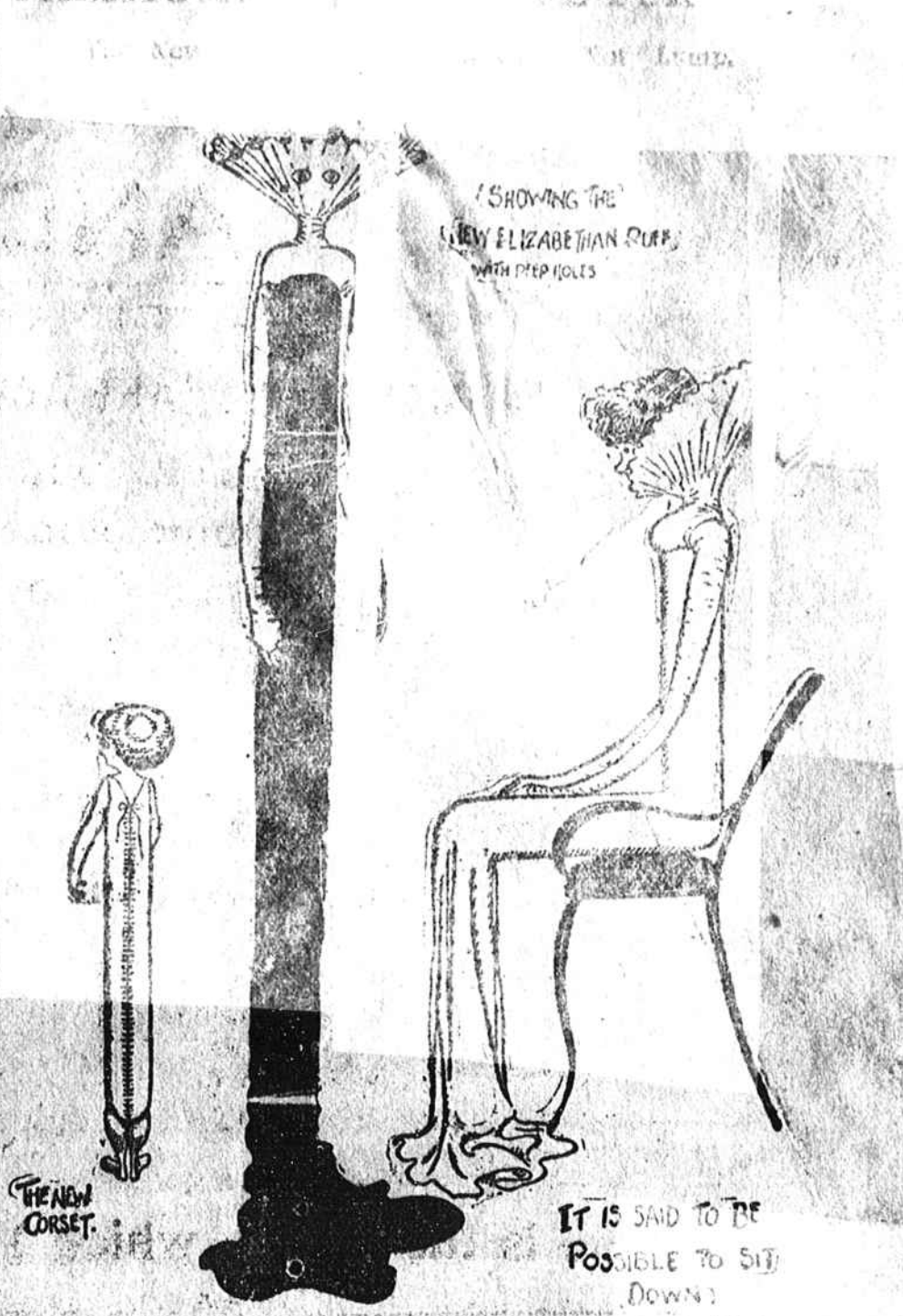
A boy from one of the great mercantile houses preceded several others whom he had influenced for good. Then came a man with a score of his fellow workmen, whom he had rescued, by his holy living, from lives of ungodliness. He was followed by a woman, distressingly poor while on earth, but filled with the Holy Spirit. She with her children, whom she had brought up in the fear of the Lord, together ascended the massive steps which led them through the portals of glory into—who can describe "the things which eye hath not seen nor ear heard?"

## For a Thousand Years

the endless procession continued to advance until the last man and woman had rendered an accounting of the life entrusted to them. I was greatly distressed at the sight of one whom I had known; he brought his work, a marvel of human goodness, but it was rejected, because it was Christless.

The scene closed. Alarmed, I awoke from my reverie. Instantly I fell on my knees consecrated my life to Him who bought me with His blood, allowed Him to fill me with His Holy Spirit. Now, after several years, I write to say, this is what I did with my life.

## FASHION.



THE NEW CORSET.

IT IS SAID TO BE POSSIBLE TO SIT DOWN!

—Cartoon From the New York Press.

## ASTRONOMICAL CALCULATIONS FOR 1909.

Being Until July 4th, the 133d Year of the Independence of the United States of America, and Corresponding Nearly To—

The year 1327 of the Mohammedan era, beginning January 23.  
The year A. M. 8018 of the Greek Church, beginning January 14 (O. S.).  
The year 4606 of the Chinese era, beginning January 22.  
The year 5669-70 of the Jewish era, September 16, or at sunset September 15.  
The year 2569 of the Japanese era, beginning January 22.  
The year 5909 A. L. (Masonic).  
The year 2662 A. U. C. (of Rome).  
The year 5913 of the World (Usher).  
The year 7417 of the World (Septuagint).

## CHURCH DAYS AND MOVABLE FEASTS.

New Year's Day, January 1.  
Conversion of St. Paul, January 25.  
Purification B. V. M., February 2.  
Septuagesima Sunday, February 7.  
St. Valentine, February 14.  
Sexagesima Sunday, February 14.  
Quinquagesima Sunday, February 21.  
Shrove Tuesday, February 23.  
Ash Wednesday (Lent begins), February 24.  
Quadragesima Sunday, February 28.  
St. Patrick's Day, March 17.  
Mid-Lent Sunday, March 21.  
Palm Sunday, April 4.  
Good Friday, April 9.  
Easter Sunday, April 11.  
Low Sunday, April 18.  
St. George, April 23.  
St. Mark, April 25.  
Saints Philip and James, May 1.  
Rogation Sunday, May 16.  
Ascension (Holy) Thursday, May 20.  
Whit-Sunday (Pentecost), May 30.  
Trinity Sunday, June 6.  
Corpus Christi, June 10.  
St. Barnabas, June 11.  
St. John the Baptist, June 24.  
Saints Peter and Paul, June 29.  
St. James, July 25.  
Transfiguration, August 6.  
St. Bartholomew, August 24.  
St. Matthew, September 21.  
Michaelmas (St. John and All Angels), September 29.  
St. Luke, October 18.  
Saints Simon and Jude, October 28.  
Thanksgiving Day, November 25.  
Advent Sunday, November 28.  
St. Andrew, November 30.  
St. Thomas, December 21.  
Christmas Day, December 25.  
St. Stephen, December 26.  
St. John the Evangelist, December 27.  
Holy Innocents, December 28.

## PLANETS BRIGHTEST.

Mercury, March 3-8 and October 25-31, as a morning star, rising shortly before the Sun; and April 27 to May 3, and September 20-26, as an evening star, setting shortly after the Sun. Venus, not this year, but she will be bright in December. Mars, September 25. At this time Mars will be slightly nearer to us than in 1907, but will not again be favorably situated until 1924. Jupiter, February 28. Saturn, October 12, and Uranus, July 11.

## MORNING STARS.

West of Sun.  
Mercury, see "Planets Brightest."  
Venus, until April 28.  
Mars, until May 12.  
Jupiter, after September 18.  
Saturn, from April 3 to July 15.  
Uranus, from January 7 to April 11.

## EVENING STARS.

East of Sun.  
Mercury, see "Planets Brightest."  
Venus, after April 28.  
Mars, after May 13.  
Jupiter, until September 18.  
Saturn, until April 3 and after July 15.  
Uranus, until Jan. 7 and after April 11.

## THE PLANETS.

Mercury will be brightest: (1) As an Evening Star, East of the Sun, February 20 to 28, setting about 1 h. 20 m. after the Sun, being farthest East of the Sun March 1.

(2) As a Morning Star, West of the Sun, August 18 to 28, rising about 1 h. 10 m. before the Sun, being farthest West of the Sun August 12.

There are no bright stars near where Mercury will be at the above times. Look for him near the sunset point of the horizon when an evening star and near the sunrise point when a morning star. He will be redder and brighter than any other objects in those parts. Few people ever see this planet so near and so bright. This is because of his nearness to the Sun, whose dazzling light must be shut out by the horizon very perceptibly when Mercury when brightest.

## CHRONOLOGICAL CYCLES.

|                          |                               |      |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|------|
| Dominical Letter         | C Dionysian Period            | 258  |
| Egypt—Moon's Age, Jan. 1 | Jewish Lunar Cycle            | 7    |
| Golden Number            | Mohammedan Era, Year          | 1327 |
| Solar Cycle              | (Begins Jan. 23.)             | 14   |
| Roman Indiction          | Jewish Era, Year begins Sept. | 5470 |
| Julian Period            |                               | 6622 |

## THE SEASONS.

| Eastern Time. |                   |    |          |
|---------------|-------------------|----|----------|
|               | D.                | H. | M.       |
| Winter        | 1908—December 22  | 0  | 25 A. M. |
| Spring        | 1909—March 21     | 1  | 0 A. M.  |
| Summer        | 1909—June 21      | 8  | 54 P. M. |
| Autumn        | 1909—September 23 | 11 | 37 A. M. |
| Winter        | 1909—December 22  | 6  | 12 A. M. |